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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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Vietnam: Heavy fighting in Quang Tri; Ky seeking support of organized labor and moderate Buddhists.
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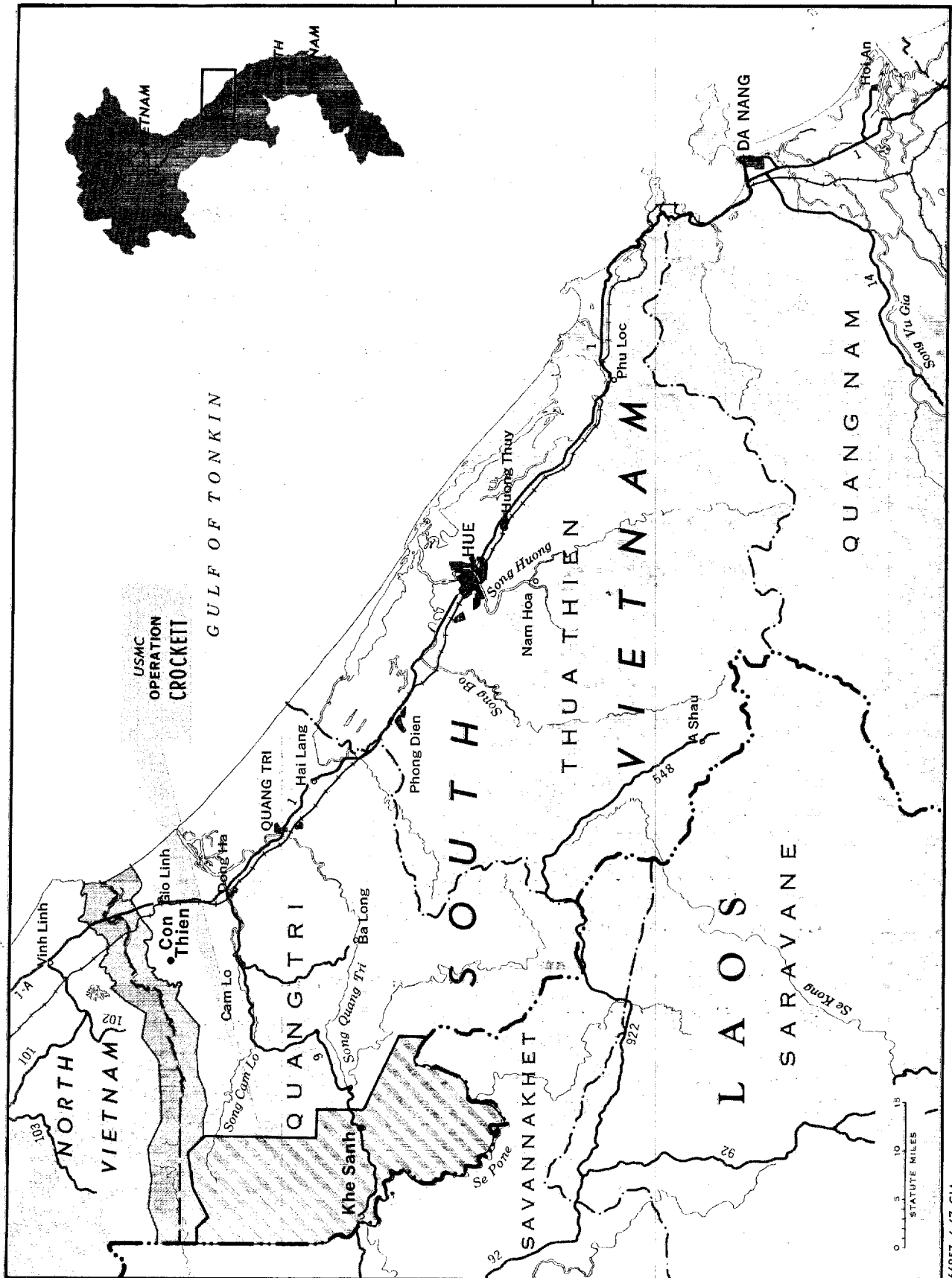
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Panama: Crackdown on students (Page 6)

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Military Developments: Heavy fighting between US Marines and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars in northwestern Quang Tri Province on 7 June has shattered a five-day lull in major ground action in South Vietnam.

Company strength elements of the 26th US Marine Regiment participating in Operation CROCKETT fought an estimated two NVA companies some five miles north-northwest of a Marine outpost at Khe Sanh. In a battle lasting more than two hours, US forces--with tactical air, armed helicopter, and artillery support--killed 63 Communist troops while losing 18 killed and 27 wounded. The enemy force is probably an element of 325th NVA Division, although its identity has not been firmly established. (Map)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: Premier Ky is making overtures to organized labor and the moderate Buddhists--two important special interest groups--in his efforts to line up political support for his presidential candidacy.]



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[In seeking Buddhist support, Ky finally has granted government recognition to the revised charter of the Unified Buddhist Association (UBA) which was drawn up by moderate Buddhist Tam Chau. Ever since militant Buddhists wrested virtual control of the UBA from Chau last October, Chau has tried to get government recognition of a new charter. Until now, however, the government has withheld approval in an apparent effort to perpetuate the split in the Buddhist movement.]

[Ky is now apparently willing to recognize the new UBA charter in return for at least unofficial support for his candidacy from Chau. Although there is still some doubt that the Buddhist militants will cooperate with Chau, government recognition of his charter will strengthen his hand and will give the reorganized UBA certain legal prerogatives.]

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NOTE

Panama: [The government's crackdown on recent extremist-led student disorders is further evidence of President Robles' determination to keep the students off balance and incapable of mounting demonstrations against the expected canal treaties. Over 70 students have been arrested and many summarily sentenced to jail terms during the past several days. [REDACTED]

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